

MR. TAYLOR: Hello, my name is Joshua Taylor. I work for SUFCO Mine. I've been a mine monitor and I'm now a dust technician. And I'm here because I want to be here. I'm not here because I'm being told to be here or anything else. I'm here because this job provides well for my family. And you know what, everybody else here -- they're here for their families, themselves, and the community, because, you know, we are a family. You know, we help take care of each other when there's problems and that. And, you know, I have four active, healthy boys. The only thing that's wrong with them, according to my wife, is that they come from my gene pool. You know, one of the things my boys love to do -- I mean my boy is done with school next week and he wants to go camping and fishing. And you know what? We have gone camping and fishing where the mine sits. I take Boy Scouts and we've been out by the power plants. And I don't know, maybe I'm camping in the wrong spot, but during the night, I can look up and the stars are there, the moon. It's just beautiful. I mean I don't know what some of you guys are talking about when you can't see the stars and the moon, because I definitely can when I'm out camping. You know what, and also about the forests. Well, we do have a bark beetle that's killing our trees. And we can't go in and log it, seeing all these fires. They get big because of those reasons, too. You know, it's not just this climate and this and that. They know we don't just go take care of our natural resources. Just over two years ago, our nation had 800 mechanized mining units across the country. These units are capable of safely producing coal. Many mines have more than one. Today, we have fewer than 470 units due to an attack which will not save the world from climate ups and downs, but an attack that will create an irreversible slide in vital fuel for our nation's strength and freedom. Coal is a cheap energy that helped make this country great. Without it, we are creating more problems than anyone can imagine. Fuel, energy, food, utilities all will skyrocket. And those who are on fixed incomes will be worse off than they are now. Many will lose their homes, their livelihood, and possibly their families. More will be forced to live on government subsidizes, not knowing when or if they can find another job. Many people already happen to rely on two incomes to make ends meet. Some are also having to rely on older children also helping with the income, and more and more are having to move back in with families to make it. Without coal, how will we remain the strongest nation on earth? That is the question each one of us here today needs to ponder and ask

ourselves. With the regulations that continue to be placed in front of our nation's miners, we not only are weakening our nation, but we are weakening every American's ability to remain strong and free. In closing here, if we stop coal leases, we not only lose the lease but the economic boost that helps our schools and our communities, which heavily rely on our coal companies to survive. Without them, our communities will die. Once again, without coal, how can we remain the strongest nation on earth? Look hard into what the actions of some will do to hurt the lives of many. Let not this become a futile race for those that cannot fathom the future of others.